

Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Wildlife Plan Work Sheet

Note: Chapter NR 50, Wisconsin Administrative Code, governs the Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control (UWDAC) Grant program. It requires that participating municipalities either have a DNR-approved Wildlife Plan or be working to develop one. UWDAC grants can only be used to fund activities specified in a DNR-approved Wildlife Plan or work that contributes toward development of a Wildlife Plan for DNR approval.

In an effort to assist municipalities in developing a Wildlife Plan, this work sheet was developed.

Answer the following questions as completely as possible in the space provided or attach a sheet with the answers.

- 1. What is the current population of deer and/or geese in your urban area? How was this number determined? What are the negative consequences of this population?**

See Attached

- 2. What is the desired population of deer and/or geese in the urban area? *(Note: complete elimination of deer or geese is not acceptable.)* How was this determined and what public input was obtained to show public acceptance of this desired population level? *(Public input is required.)***

See Attached

- 3. What technique(s) do you propose to use to obtain the population goal set in Question 2 or to control the damage being caused?**

See Attached

City of Brookfield
URBAN DEER ABATEMENT AND CONTROL PROGRAM

Summary of 2008 Operations and Preliminary Recommendations for 2009

A. BACKGROUND

In June 2001, the Common Council adopted the "Findings and Recommendations" of the Deer Task Force which were developed following many public meetings and forums, lengthy discussions, and numerous communications from residents. (Appendix "A")

The Task Force consisted of residents representing the entire City, staff, experts, and other local community officials and was assembled for the purpose of assessing and analyzing the deer population and related impacts in the community and researching and recommending effective and publicly acceptable management alternatives.

The "Findings and Recommendations" contained a number of management strategies that included non-lethal measures of control emphasizing public education as well as the implementation of a deer population reduction and maintenance program utilizing a combination of methods including the use of trained, professional sharpshooters and trapping and relocating.

B. PROGRAM INITIATIVES/RESULTS

1. Summary

The Task Force "Findings and Recommendations" describe the objectives and plan for addressing the overpopulation of deer in the City and related issues and concerns. Over the past several years, the City has implemented many of the recommendations to include:

- Installation of additional cautionary signage on roadways especially in designated "hot spot" areas.
- An emphasis has been placed on increasing public awareness relative to effects of feeding, deer repellents, unpalatable landscape plants, and other deterrents through the use of informational brochures, direct mailings, and the City Newsletter and web site.
- Implementation of an annual deer population reduction and maintenance program utilizing a combination of sharpshooting and live-trapping.

2. Population Reduction Program

The ongoing population reduction initiative in 2008 focused on management zones where the deer numbers have been shown to exceed the recommended number of deer per square mile of habitat area by the greatest amount. (Appendix "B"). These zones are described below:

<u>Management Zone</u>	<u>General Area of the City</u>
Black Forest Wetlands (Sharpshooting)	Section 21 & 28, wetlands/woodlands area north of Bluemound Road between Brookfield Road and Calhoun Road
Wirth Park Wetlands (Sharpshooting)	Section 15, wetlands/woodlands area west and north of Wirth Park
Underwood Creek (Sharpshooting, Trapping)	Section 14, wetlands/woodlands area located north of North Avenue along the Underwood Creek and near Mound Zion Park and isolated natural area south of Burleigh and east of Pilgrim Road

A critical component of the recommended deer abatement and control program was to continue to monitor the deer population and establish population estimates through an aerial deer survey which was conducted on December 3 - 4, 2007 prior to initiating any culling operations. A total of 386 deer were counted in the 36 square mile Township with 38 counted in Elm Grove and another 87± counted in the Town of Brookfield. Total Township counts since the initiation of the program are as follows: 2002 – 500±, 2003 – 370, 2004 – 547, 2005 – 298, 2006 – 368, 2007 – 416, 2008 - 386

A total of 90 (35%) deer were successfully removed from the estimated total population in the City (i.e. 261 deer). The removals occurred in the three (3) "hot spot" areas with sharpshooting occurring in all of the areas and live-trapping in one area as indicated above. (Appendix "C"). The sharpshooting program was conducted on a combination of public and private property through a contract with Wildlife Management Specialists. The live-trapping program was conducted on private property through a contract with Kiwi Captures International. Written permission was received from property owners in situations where private property was used either to conduct the program or to obtain access to public sites. "Operational Protocols" for the programs were developed by the Police Department. All of the deer culled were delivered to an approved meat processing facility with all useable venison donated to a recognized charitable organization (i.e. food pantry) as per DNR permit conditions.

Residents living adjacent to these areas were notified by direct mailing regarding when culling operations were to occur and the procedures the City would be following. In addition, warning signage was placed in the management zones and maintained throughout operations.

3. Deer/Vehicle Accident Data

The "Deer/Vehicle Crash Information Summary" report (Appendix "D") prepared by Lt. Bruce Schell of the City of Brookfield Police Department suggests that management efforts implemented in 2002 – 06 may be producing a positive effect on the number of car/deer accidents in the community particularly in the identified management zone areas. The ongoing evaluation of these statistics will be necessary to effectively determine whether there is a correlation between the reduction in the herd size and the number of car/deer accidents that occur on an annual basis.

4. Financial Summary

The total budget allocated for the 2008 program was \$25,000, which was supplemented with a \$5,000 DNR Urban Wildlife Grant, with the following expenses incurred:

Sharpshooting Services	\$ 18,160.00
Live Trapping Services.....	4,800.00
Aerial Deer Survey	2,628.00
Mailings	175.00
TOTAL PROGRAM COST	25,763.00

NOTE: The approximate cost per deer removed was \$233 for sharpshooting and \$400 for live trapping.

C. 2008/09 PROGRAM STRATEGIES/INITIATIVES

The discovery of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Wisconsin's deer herd has had ramifications for urban deer management programs that utilize sharpshooters or live-trapping. Related issues that will continually need to be addressed include:

Baiting – The baiting and feeding of deer has been prohibited in 24 Wisconsin counties (including Waukesha County) due to concerns about its role in promoting disease transmission among deer. However, the value of bait when used by sharpshooters in urban areas is acknowledged and has been allowed in limited situations by permit and with certain restrictions.

Transfer of Live Deer to Deer Farms – The transfer of live deer from the wild to captive deer farms is no longer allowed. Permits may still be issued to communities that want to live-trap deer, but these deer must be humanely euthanized at or near the trap or at a nearby processing facility.

Utilization of Meat – Past permits have required that the meat from deer taken in urban deer management programs must be utilized in some manner for human consumption (i.e. donated to a food pantry or given to residents). Because of food

safety concerns raised by some food pantries which may make it difficult to utilize meat resulting from deer control programs, the DNR may consider, on a case-by-case basis, communities' requests to dispose of deer carcasses. However, it will be strongly recommended that communities attempt to find a means to utilize the deer meat before considering other disposal options.

Sample Collection – Each permit will specify that the Wisconsin DNR has the right to take all or part of any deer collected if it is needed for disease monitoring.

Recommendations:

1. The City should continue efforts in public education and cautionary roadway measures as feasible and appropriate. Emphasis should be placed on informing/educating the public regarding the DNR's ban on the baiting and feeding of deer and its role in promoting disease (CWD) transmission among deer.
2. The City should continue the established population reduction and control program in "hot spot" management zone areas (to be determined) which would be implemented after completion of the following:
 - a. An updated aerial survey of the deer population in the City should be conducted annually to assess and analyze which of the eight management zones have deer numbers that continue to be in excess of the long range goal of 20-30 deer per square mile of habitat area. The 2009 program should focus on the reduction of the herd in the zones where population totals are shown to exceed the targeted goal numbers by the greatest amount.

NOTE: Up until the 2005 survey, the aerial counts in the Fox River management zone had not exceeded the population management goal threshold. Therefore, to date there have been no herd reduction efforts in this area. In addition, the total number of deer counted in the Butler Ditch management zone appears to be increasing on an annual basis. If the herd continues to increase in number and annual counts continue to exceed the established threshold (i.e. 20 – 30 per square mile of habitat area) consideration may need to be given to initiating some reduction efforts in these two zones. Factors that will need to be considered when recommending any herd reduction within these zones will include the location and population density of the herd(s), availability of appropriate and safe sites to conduct sharpshooting operations, and resident complaints and/or support.

- b. Ultimate determination of the disposition of the deer removed, as approved by DNR permit, which may include:
 1. Collected by DNR for testing
 2. Processed and distributed to food pantries wherever possible
 3. Disposal to landfill

3. The annual budgeted allocation of \$25,000 should again be sufficient to maintain program effectiveness in achieving population reduction goals in 2009.

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